

Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-09

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
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SUBJ: COMMUNIST AID TO WESTERN SAMOA AND TONGA

1. RECENT AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVES, GERMAN GESTURES, APPREHENSIONS OF ISLAND LEADERS, APPARENT SOVIET AND PRC INERTIA, HAVE TOGETHER IMPEDED MOMENTUM OF LATTERS' PENETRATION SOUTH PACIFIC WHILE ISLANDERS GAINING CONFIDENCE IN TRADITIONAL FRIENDS' INTEREST IN THEIR DEVELOPMENTAL ASPIRATIONS.

2. AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER UPTON, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM LENGTHY VISITS TO TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA AS HEAD OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TEAM, TOLD ME HE WAS STRUCK BY COMPLETE ABSENCE OF ALLUSIONS BY SAMOAN PRIME MIN EFI OR KING OF TONGA TO SOVIET OR PRC OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE (TONGA CONTINUES RECOGNIZE ROC), AS MEANS OF GAINING LEVERAGE FOR AUSTRALIAN HELP. BOTH LEADERS APPEAR TO BE COOLING ON RUSSIAN OVERTURES, IN PARTICULAR.

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GOA IS READY TO SPEND AT LEAST \$11 MILLION ON SAMOAN DEVELOPMENT

IN AGRICULTURAL AND MARITIME FIELDS, ALTHOUGH HICOM WONDERS HOW MUCH APIA CAN ABSORB SINCE PLANNING AND EXECUTIVE RESOURCES EXTREMELY THIN. WEST GERMANY ALSO OFFERING MODEST CONTRIBUTION, ACCORDING UPTON.

3. THOUGH EFI CONTINUES PRESS FOR RESIDENT AUSTRALIAN MISSION "TO HELP BALANCE CHINESE," UPTON UNDERSTANDS NEWLY ARRIVED PRC EMBASSY STAFF IN APIA HAS BEEN ALMOST COMPLETELY PASSIVE, HAS HELD NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH GWS. MEANWHILE SAMOAN MIN ECONOMICS HAS TOLD VISITING FAS OFFICER HIS GOVERNMENT HESITATING TO AWARD 25 SOVIET SCHOLARSHIPS, OFFERED BY RECENT RUSSIAN FISHERIES MISSION, OWING APPREHENSION OVER ULTIMATE IMPACT OF THESE. #FAS OFF GATHERED NO FURTHER DEVZLOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE REGARDING SOVIET REEF BLASTING AND FISHERIES MAPPING PROPOSALS.

4. KING OF TONGA DELIGHTED WITH AUSTRALIAN OFFER TO DO COMPLETE STUDY OF AIRPORT FACILITIES AT NUKU'ALOFA, PROBABLY STRENGTHEN RUNWAY IN THE MEANTIME, WHICH UPTON (AND PROBABLY KING) ANTIVIPATES WILL LEAD AUSTRALIA'S ASSUMING MAJOR SHARE OF COSTS OF UPGRADING AIRPORT TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARD, A CHERISHED OBJECTIVE OF KING TUPOU. OF \$7 MILLION THAT GOA EARMARKING FOR TONGAN DEVELOPMENT, AID MISSION RECOMMENDING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT BE SPENT ON PORT IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING EXTENSION DOCKING FACILITIES, ANOTHER PRIME INTEREST OF KING. AUSTRALIANS ALSO RECEPTIVE TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS IMPROVEMENT PLAN, HAVE AGREED LENGTHEN RUNWAY AT VAVAU. LATTER WILL BENEFIT AMERICAN SAMOA-BASED FEDERAL NEA(SPIA) WHICH NOW FORCED RESTRICT LOADS OWING LENGTH OF STRIP.

5. KING TUPOU DWELLED AT SOME LENGTH IN RECENT ADDRESS FROM THRONE ON IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS OF TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION RECENTLY CONCLUDED WITH GERMANY. "ECONOMIC COMMISSIONER" SOON TO ARRIVE FROM FRG TO DISCUSS, "SUITABLE PROGRAM OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE", SAID KING. THE COMMISSIONER, KING PROMISED, WILL HAVE TWO MAJOR PROJECTS PLACED BEFORE HIM: AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT TO FOUR-ENGINE JET STANDARD ALLOWING INCREASED TOURISM AND AIR SHIPMENT TO HAWAII, NEW ZEALAND AND JAPAN OF TROPICAL FOODS, AND FACILITIES FOR MANUFACTURE OF SPARE PARTS FOR IMPORTED MACHINERY AND

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EQUIPMENT. MEANWHILE, TONGAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ADOPTED MOTION SUPPORTING AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, WITH SPEAKER POINTEDLS NOTING THAT IF SOVIET UNION INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING AIRPORT, NEGOT ATIONS SHOULD BE SPEEDED UP.

6. COMMENT: AUSTRALIANS HAVE MOVED WITH GRATIFYING ALACRITY TO MEET PRESSURES BUILT BY SOVIET AND PRC OVERTURES IN AREA. THEIR INITIATIVE APPEARS TO BE ENTIRELY UNAMBIGUOUS, AND IS

IN HIGHLY FAVORABLE CONTRAST TO APPARENT FOOT-DRAGGING ON
COMMUNIST SIDE WHICH, ASIDE FROM POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS,
HAS CONTRIBUTED TO CURRENT COOLING OF ATTITUDES TOWARD THEIR
ASSISTANCE. GERMAN INTEREST IS HELPFUL NEW ELEMENT WHICH
SHOULD NICELY COMPLEMENT AUSTRALIAN EFFORT.
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